

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 11052 161001Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8895
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: DIET SESSION ENDS

SUMMARY: WITH EXCEPTION OF MINOR DIFFICULTY CREATED BY
OPPOSITION PARTIES IN THEIR LESS THAN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO
BLOCK KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF BILL, DIET JUST CONCLUDED
WAS QUIET. COGNIZANT OF LDP'S THIN MAJORITIES, GOVERNMENT
KEPT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AS FREE OF CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS AS
POSSIBLE. SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF DIET ALSO ATTRIBUTABLE
TO EFFORTS OF LDP SECGEN OHIRA, CHIEF CONTENDER FOR PRIME
MINISTERSHIP, WHO WAS AT PAINS TO SHOW HE COULD ENLIST
COOPERATION OF MODERATE OPPOSITION PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST CONTROVERSIAL ITEM IN SESSION OF DIET WHICH
ENDED ON JUNE 16 WAS DOMESTIC LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING
JAPAN-ROK AGREEMENT ON EXPLOITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF
RESOURCES. STRONG RESISTANCE AND SUCCESSFUL DELAYING
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TACTICS OF ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES EXCEPT USUALLY PRO-SEOUL
DSP FORCED LDP TO EXTEND SESSION BY ONE MONTH. BILL PASSED
ON JUNE 14. ASIDE FROM LEGISLATURE BUSINESS, DIET SESSION
ALSO INCLUDED USUAL LENGTHY ROUNDS OF QUESTIONING OF
GOVERNMENT BY OPPOSITION ON TYPICAL RANGE OF TOPICS --
ECONOMY, DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY PEACE
AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH PRC.

2. BULK OF LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED QUIETLY. OF 82 BILLS ON AGENDA, UNUSUALLY HIGH PROPORTION OF 90 PERCENT WERE PASSED. MAJOR REASON FOR THIS SUCCESS RATIO, HOWEVER, WAS THAT GOJ BUREAUCRATS AND LDP DIET STRATEGISTS MADE CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO KEEP CONTROVERSIAL BILLS OFF AGENDA. LDP, FACED WITH SLIM MAJORITIES IN BOTH HOUSES AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF ONLY 21 OF DIET'S 32 STANDING COMMITTEES, NO LONGER FEELS ABLE TO PUSH CONTROVERSIAL BILLS PAST OPPOSITION. LDP NEEDED DSP'S COOPERATION TO PASS CONTINENTAL SHELF BILL AND ALSO HAD TO ACCOMMODATE MODERATE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO OBTAIN PASSAGE OF ONLY OTHER CONTROVERSIAL BILLS ENACTED THIS SESSION, BUDGET AND NARITA AIRPORT SPECIAL MEASURES.

3. SMOOTH OPERATION OF DIET WAS ALSO ATTRIBUTABLE TO LDP SEC GEN OHIRA, MAIN CONTENDER FOR PRIME MINISTERSHIP. OHIRA IS SAID TO HAVE BUILT ESPECIALLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH LEADERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES, WHICH ENABLED HIM TO ARRANGE COMPROMISES ON CONTENTIOUS BILLS. IN SPEECH ON JUNE 14, TRANSPORT MINISTER AND OHIRA FACTION MEMBER FUKUNAGA MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO GIVE OHIRA CREDIT FOR ORDERLY DIET, POINTING TO PASSAGE OF NARITA BILL AS EXAMPLE OF OHIRA'S SPECIAL ABILITY TO WORK WITH "REASONABLE" OPPOSITION PARTIES AT TIME WHEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION WERE AT NEARLY EQUAL STRENGTH.

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4. COMMENT: NEARLY SIX-MONTH DIET SESSION HAS ENDED AND, BARRING POSSIBILITY THAT SPECIAL SESSION BE CALLED TO RATIFY TREATY WITH CHINA THIS SUMMER, DIET WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL EXTRAORDINARY SESSION IN FALL. DIETMEN MAY, THEREFORE, RETURN TO THEIR CONSTITUENCIES AND GOJ BUREAUCRATS, WHO HAD BEEN STANDING BY IN DIET AND WORKING LATE HOURS TO PREPARE ANSWERS TO INCESSANT DIET QUESTIONING BY OPPOSITION, TO THEIR DESKS. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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